

unanimously desired independence of Roumania, thus receiving official sanction, and the Chambers count upon the sense of justice of the guaranteeing Powers." The Senate voted a bill creating a military decoration.

It is not expected that Prince Charles will assume the title of King of Roumania before the independence of the country is formally recognized by some or all of the guaranteeing Powers.

**HUNGARY ANXIOUS FOR WAR.**  
A Vienna despatch says the Roumanian declaration of independence caused but little agitation in that city. The Hungarian papers, however, declare that the hour of action has arrived for Austria-Hungary. A letter from Kossuth is published urging an alliance between Hungary and Turkey to defend the independence against the common enemy—namely, Russia.

**SERBIA DRIFTING INTO WAR.**  
The Serbians are making offensive preparations at Satschkar and along the Timok. They have ordered the fortification of Aleksandria and Izvor. The Turks have stationed a strong corps of observation at Adilo to guard against a sudden movement from Serbia. It is reported in Vienna that the Serbians wish to operate in the direction of Bosnia and against Nish. Prince Milan is said to have telegraphed to the Emperor of Austria, a Vienna correspondent from Belgrade that the Council of Ministers have resolved that Prince Milan shall inform the Emperor that the Roumanian proclamation of independence is not to be maintained neutrally. A similar report is current in Pesth.

**GREECE TO JOIN THE FRAY.**  
A despatch from Athens, coming by way of Paris, says that war between Greece and Turkey is considered inevitable. The Premier at the opening of the session of the Chamber will deliver a speech tending to war, which, it is thought, will break out in twenty days at the latest. The Greek brigades who were released by the Turkish authorities at Janina and who entered Greece have been forced to return to Turkish territory.

**ENGLAND'S PREPARATIONS.**  
The Standard reports that orders have been received at Portsmouth that the five great ironclads which are now lying idle in the harbor, in consequence of the close of the season for sending relief to India, are not to be subjected to any alterations which cannot be completed in a few days, so that they may be ready to proceed to sea if required.

One thousand barrels of powder will be embarked for Malta to-day.

**MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.**  
The Russian Telegraphic Agency announces that the Emperor of Russia and the Czarine start for Ploesti on the 1st of June. Prince Gortschakoff, Count Adlerberg and the Minister of War will accompany them. Count Schouvaloff will remain in London immediately after the Emperor's departure. The Emperor, of Vienna, says no promise concerning the neutralization of Little Wallachia has ever been given or demanded. It was only with respect to Servian neutrality that Austria expressed certain wishes, which have been complied with. A Constantinople despatch says the Turkish Ministers have resolved to draw no salary during the war.

A decree is published in the Russian official journal ordering the formation of two more divisions of Cosacks of the Don to reinforce the operating army. The Sultan will in a few days replace Redi Pachá by a more competent War Minister.

## ODESSA SCARED.

**WATCHING THE APPROACH OF THE TURKISH IRON-CLADS—A BLOW-OUT AWAITING THE MOSLEMS—BEGGING FOR THE WOUNDED—POPEETS READY TO POP ON THE OTTOMAN—VISIONS OF BOMBHELLS.**

ODESSA, MAY 5, 1877.  
So much has the present system of communication effected journalism that the letters of correspondents arriving so long after the facts of which they treat have been announced by the telegraph, can only be rendered interesting by the greatest care on the part of the correspondent in hunting up curious incidents likely to interest the public. The true title of a correspondence nowadays would be "The Curiosities of the War."

**UNFOUNDED FEAR.**  
The report that the bombardment of Odessa was imminent having been circulated at Kischeneff, I hastened to the threatened point on my arrival found, instead of a city in flames, a town as calm and silent as the statue of Kischeneff, who from the summit of his pedestal, where he seems mounted as a sentinel to survey the horizon, appears to be looking out for the expected Turkish fleet.

**ODESSA AS IT IS.**  
Nothing is at once so sad and strange as the aspect of a harbor completely empty. Can you make your way a picture of what the bay of New York would be without the innumerable ships which give it life? Not that the immense American city can be at all compared with the Russian town, although the latter boasts of some two hundred thousand inhabitants. Looking out to sea from the height of the boulevard and from the foot of the statue of Kischeneff, referred to above, that is to say looking down from an eminence of more than a hundred feet, two batteries mounted with heavy guns are visible—one on the right, the other on the left, surrounded by trees. They make on the water a yellow line with dark streaks, which are the cannon commanding the pass. Between them is the main basin, completely empty; but on the right a small basin, in which are four or five little brigs and galleys, lightened at finding themselves alone.

**POPEETY TO THE FORT.**  
The only vessel in sight is stationed in front of the basin. It is as round as a piece of money. It carries two smokestacks, has low bulwarks and one turret, and, in fine, everything we are accustomed to see on a ship. But when the moment for action arrives all this disappears, the deck is cleared, the sailors disappear into the interior, and the ship, turning on her centre, goes under the water, the stern as it does a screw under a piece of wood. This singular ship is a gunboat. She is the invention of the Russian Admiral Popoff, whose name she bears. In the war about to begin she is destined to some strange experiences. Away on the distant horizon smoke arises from the funnel of the Stakourane, which also is watching the Turkish ironclads; and between the Stakourane and the Popoff are innumerable torpedoes.

**DEFENSE BY TORPEDO.**  
They are spread all over the port, and will certainly keep the hostile frigates some four or five miles away from the town. This is as far as the depth of water permitted the torpedoes to be laid down, but not far enough to prevent the bombardment of the town, because modern artillery is effective at a much greater distance. At this range, it is true, the aim will be less, but the moral effect will be the same. The presence of these torpedoes does not, however, hinder navigation, as their position is known and they can be avoided.

**TRAGEDY.**  
Here is how the departure of a ship wishing to leave the port is arranged. The Commandant sends on board an officer and some one of the marine corps who know the way out. The officer begins operations by sending the crew and passengers below after all the portulques have been carefully closed lest any of the passengers should undertake to act as spy and note the way out. Notwithstanding these precautions it would still be possible to observe from the jetty the route taken by departing ships, and for this reason all ingress or egress has been forbidden for some days. The day before yesterday a Belgian steamer arrived, and was warned off by two black discharges from the guns of the battery, but this not having the desired effect a cannon ball was sent ricocheting across her bows. The captain's intelligence was at once awakened, and turning his prow to sea he went off to Nicolaeff to discharge. It is said that all this is serious; but, however serious affairs may be, the comical will always intrude. The comical on this occasion took the form of a small Italian bark, which, three days ago, was seen at anchor to catch anchor in the port. Not knowing about the prohibition of the torpedoes, she had arrived by a miracle. This ship had passed perhaps a hundred times within a foot or even an inch of certain death, for the new submarine machines do not joke. Some opinion of their effect can be formed, because on the passage of the Emperor Alexander, last Thursday, he was treated to the spectacle of a torpedo explosion. The system is so well organized that it suffices for the sovereign to point out with his finger any part of the roadstead, when immediately there arose a huge column of water, flame or smoke shot high in the air by the submarine explosion.

**SCARED INHABITANTS.**  
This spectacle has restored confidence to the hearts of the inhabitants, among whom a panic had begun to spread, as was shown by the numerous removals. At the present moment all the houses on the Place Catten, which is close to the sea, are empty. In the beginning there was a general race toward the railway station, to such an extent that enough carriages could not be found to carry off the fleeing people. Departure was rendered almost impracticable by the immense crowd of Jews who filled the ticket office. It was the Jews who first spread the panic. As in all the towns of this country the Jews form at least one-fourth of the population. They had taken possession of the station, and the following dialogue took place between them and the ticket seller:

"How much to go to Kischeneff?"  
"Five roubles!"  
"Will you take three?"  
"The employes naturally refused. To this Jew another succeeded, who offered two roubles, all deftly paid without taking any tickets. Then the first returned and offered, and the last moment, four roubles; four and a quarter. Seeing that no transaction was possible with the railway company he decided, with a profound sigh, to pay the full fare. This block at the station augmented the panic-fear of not being able to get away. But all persons, even fear, wear out in the long run, and the people began to make fun of the Turks. They say that the Turks will not return to Odessa because they are too ignorant of navigation to find their way."

**A STORY FOR THE MARINES.**  
There is even a report that the Ottoman fleet passing by a Turkish Turk mistook it for Odessa and bombarded it, and that the Turkish fleet had conscientiously answered the fire. There is an old anecdote in circulation here, which is now given as an absolute fact, and as such implicitly believed. It is so funny and apropos that it will bear repeating. The Sultan Abdul-Aziz was very proud of his fleet and desired to show a sample of it to England. He therefore ordered one of his captains to go to England to maintain in his name Queen Victoria. The ship sailed, and while in the Mediterranean all went well; the pilot was still on board. But when Gibraltar was reached and the pilot about to take his leave the captain explained the last bit of his war. He felt himself wholly incapable of making an English port. Out of this perplexity the pilot drew him by showing him a steamer leaving for England.

"Follow that ship," said he, "she is going to England."

So it was done all day and all night. But during the darkness the guide was lost. At daybreak a ship was seen on the horizon, and the Turk followed it with all confidence. Four days passed, then six, then eight, then ten.

"I did not think England was so far," said the discontented captain.

At length a great port was sighted. The authorities visited the iron-clad, and asked the captain in English what he desired.

"I come on behalf of my master to salute your sovereign."

"What sovereign?" asked the chief man.

"Queen Victoria. And I am not in England?"

At these words all the people of the country began to laugh.

"You are in New York," they cried.

Here is what had happened. During the first night they had lost the steamer which should have guided them and they had followed another, believing it to be the same ship. I repeat that this story is given as absolutely true.

**ON THE RAGGED EDGE.**  
Confidence then returned to the inhabitants of Odessa and affairs were improving last night when the news of the bombardment of Braila, in Roumania, was received. Then terror resumed its sway, and I am now writing in the room of a scared people.

**THE RISK RUN.**  
The town, however, is commanded by a distinguished Governor General, Sevastchev, whose military preoccupations are disturbed by inquisitive friends. This officer is of the presence, and is still young, having barely passed his fortieth year. He passes the hours which the performance of his duties leaves him at the pillow of his sick daughter, aged four years, whom he loves the more because of her infirmity. Parents who love their children know that it is always those who are tortured by nature that are most loved. Now, General Sevastchev's daughter is deaf and dumb. The Emperor was not ignorant of the sorrow which weighed on the Governor's family, and as soon as he arrived at Odessa he sent his doctor to see the dying child.

**FOR SWEET CHARITY.**  
When I shall have told you that the ladies of this town beg through the streets for the wounded, that in this country people enter apartments without knocking (I have just received, in complete nightgown, three ladies who held out a begging box, collecting for the wounded), when I shall tell you that under my window an organ grinder is dispensing the music of Offenbach, you will know as much as I do about this town, where I came to witness the fall of bombshells, but have only witnessed the fall of cards, for in the Café Français poker is passionately played.

From here I will return to Kischeneff, when I shall probably go toward the Danube.

**AMERICA AND RUSSIA.**  
**AN AMERICAN ANSWERS "ENGLISHMAN'S" STRICTURES ON THE HERALD'S COURSE.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—  
In to-day's issue there appears a letter signed by "An Englishman," who is evidently much exasperated at the tone the HERALD assumes on the Eastern question. He is apparently very much chagrined that the HERALD should, in giving expression to what history demonstrates and what every fair minded man will concede, espouse the cause of the oppressed Christians in Turkey. He utters an innuendo that implies that your paper is actuated by mercenary motives to vindicate Russia in what he calls this "infamous war." Now, I fail to perceive that the war is an infamous one, because, as everybody knows, it was occasioned by a failure of the Ottoman government to give any valid assurances that the Christian population would be protected from massacre, intolerance and persecution. Now, if a war waged for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of these people is infamous, then wrong is right and right is wrong. The first paragraph of his letter he displays that prejudice which prevents him from seeing things as others see them. He asks, "Why this belittling of England's constant practice of Russian Power in Asia?" Now, if he only judges of things with impartiality, he will see that there is a comparatively little barbarism in Russia as in England, or any other country with a monarchical form of government. He further more asks, "What is there in common between a free and popular government like that of the United States and the despotic power of Russia?" Well, there exists, indeed, a striking difference and contrast between the institutions of the two countries. So does there equally exist between Great Britain and this country. I would like to ascertain what sympathy or commiseration for soldiers we should entertain toward Russia. To begin with, the United States and Russia have always been on the most cordial and friendly terms. The inexpressible punishment and torture inflicted upon our forefathers by the British government during the Revolutionary war, the employment of the Indians for scalping and receiving a stipulated amount per capita, are things that cannot be forgotten by the United States. The Russian government during our civil war maintained strict neutrality, whereas John Bull aided the Confederate cause and contented himself with endeavoring to crush the Union. England destroyed our commerce and absolutely drove us off the seas. I cannot, therefore, perceive what there is in common between us and England, who can every day see by the newspapers of the English residents and emigrants in this country that they show an aversion to our government. Still, I am not disposed to repudiate the idea of becoming American citizens. If then, the English articles published by the HERALD are unpalatable to "An Englishman," they are none the less venacious. It is only three weeks since I read in the Herald an account of a discussion in the House of Commons upon the advisability of adopting a Parliamentary journal similar to our Congressional Record. In the discussion that preceded its docket many of the members opposed to its adoption asserted that it was a " Yankee invention," which manifestly held it to be a " Yankee invention." I am independent and fearless, because the side it has taken in this "infamous war" meets with the approbation of ninety per cent of the American nation. I read for will give equal publicity to this letter, inasmuch as it is evoked by the rhetorical statements of "An Englishman." JUSTITIA.

New York, May 21, 1877.

**AN AMERICAN FOR ENGLAND.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—  
All Americans are not advocates of friends of so autocratic a despotism as that of Russia. I think the majority of English speaking people—Feminae excepted—in this country hold opposite opinions upon the Eastern question to those of the writer who signs himself "An Englishman" in your edition of May 12. I differ from him radically. With all her faults England is nearer to us in domestic and political economy, and nearer to the United States in her sympathies for the oppressed, than Russia is. It is fortunate for the civilized world that England has been, and I hope will be, for a long time a strong barrier to the descent of the semi-civilized Cossack upon Europe. The Christianity of Russia is as intolerant in its form as that of my Puritan ancestor of the old colony times. I doubt whether the various denomi-

ions of the Christian Church now under Turkish control would be any better off under Russian. As a barrier to an American of Russian proclivities I proclaim that next to the United States of America, my heart and hand are for England.

ANOTHER AMERICAN.

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**THE VIRGINIA BRITISHERS.**

**JOHN BULL AND HIS COMPANIONS IN POSSESSION OF THE COCKADE CITY—AN EARLY CONQUEST THAN GRANT'S—THE OPENING DAY OF THE CELEBRATION.**  
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]  
Petersburg, May 23, 1877.  
The British have captured the Cockade City, John Bull, Sandy the Scotman, and Pat the Irishman, with Taffy thrown in, have entire control of Petersburg. Delegations have poured in to-day from Toronto, Hamilton, Guelph, London and elsewhere in Canada, and from New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Connecticut, Baltimore and other places in America. The Philadelphia delegation exceeds fifty, with most of their wives with them, and came in three special railroad cars. British and American banners are flying everywhere. The St. George's, St. Andrew's, Caledonian and other societies have brought the banners and regalia of their respective societies.

**CHARACTER OF THE DELEGATES.**  
The delegates are mostly solid business men, such as Hon. Lewis Thompson, the Philadelphia millionaire. No one here has been witness to the United States since the Revolution. John Bull, Brother Jonathan are vying with each other in enthusiasm.

**THE GRAND RECEPTION.**  
The grand reception in honor of British settlers in Virginia was a brilliant success.

**THE ADDRESS.**  
Hon. D. B. Tennant, Vice President of the British Association of Virginia, delivered the following address:—

GENTLEMEN AND BROTHER BRITISH SETTLERS:—It is my privilege, as President of the British Association of Virginia, to welcome you to the annual festival of our Association. Oughtn't I to rejoice to meet you in the hospitable land of the Revolution? John Bull, Brother Jonathan are vying with each other in enthusiasm. The hour of being denominated the headquarters of the British colonization in the Old Dominion. The British settlers always find themselves thoroughly at home among their brethren here, and I do not think that your visit will be made both agreeable and profitable. I trust, to be able to show you that you are not only welcome here, but that you are also a part of the great British Empire. The friends of British immigration have been, like Mark Tapscott, trying to join you under the most unfavorable circumstances. For the last twenty years the British settlement in the United States has been a success. It has been the solitary ray of hope to those who firmly believe that the British race is destined to preserve the empire. Since 1874, that day of universal peace and disaster, the friends of British immigration have been, like Mark Tapscott, trying to join you under the most unfavorable circumstances. For the last twenty years the British settlement in the United States has been a success. It has been the solitary ray of hope to those who firmly believe that the British race is destined to preserve the empire. Since 1874, that day of universal peace and disaster, the friends of British immigration have been, like Mark Tapscott, trying to join you under the most unfavorable circumstances. For the last twenty years the British settlement in the United States has been a success. It has been the solitary ray of hope to those who firmly believe that the British race is destined to preserve the empire. 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